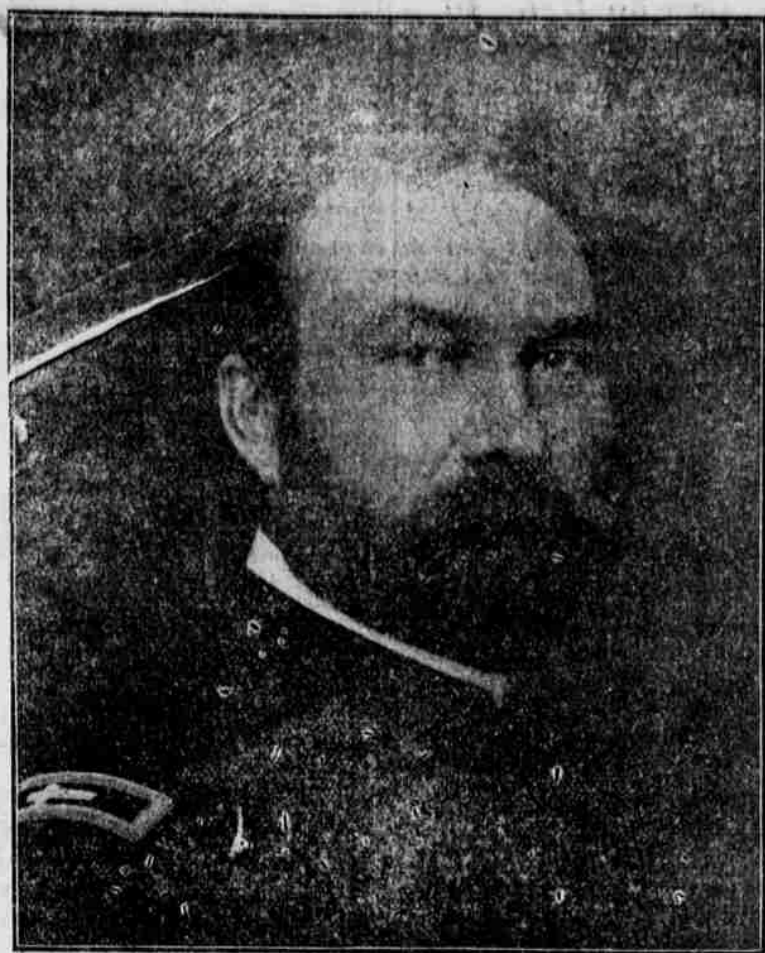


MEN WHO HAVE WORKED AND WON!



DR. IRA A. PRIEST,

President of Buchtel College, Chaplain Eighth O. V. I., and One of the Foremost Educators of Ohio—To Him Belongs the Credit of Rebuilding Buchtel College.



MR. O. C. BARBER,

President of the Diamond Match and Stirling Boiler Companies, and Leader in Other Industrial Enterprises—Founder of Barberton, and a Public Spirited Man.



MR. JACOB KOCH,

The Senior Member of J. Koch & Co., One of Northern Ohio's Pioneer Mercantile Houses—Mr. Koch is a Steadfast Believer in Akron's Future.

DR. IRA A. PRIEST,

AND BUCHEL COLLEGE.

"The hospitality and cordiality of Akron people is what impressed me most the first week I was in this city," said Rev. Dr. Ira A. Priest, President of Buchtel College, to a Democrat representative. "The impression has gained upon me since that time and I love Akron as though I had lived here many years. At first I missed some of the peculiarly eastern customs, but I soon found myself so deep in work, and so many pleasant things came to take the place of those which I missed that I soon forgot them."

Dr. Priest sat stroking his little daughter's hair as she leaned upon his knee at the pleasant home of the college president. "My work has been pleasant here, but I have had little time for anything aside from it. I have done some lecturing and that is almost all. But we see happy times ahead. The new college buildings will soon be in use, we have a class of 14 graduates this year, now busy with their theses, and an enrollment of over 100 in the Preparatory department. Next year's outlook seems very encouraging."

It was in October 1896 that Dr. Priest came to Akron from Newtonville, Mass., probably the prettiest suburb of Boston. He had been pastor of the Universalist Church there, four years, and was then 40 years old—not an old man as college presidents go, by any means. He had then been a pastor and a leader in reform movements wherever he chanced to be, for nine years, and was, as he is now, a broad shouldered, broad minded, earnest, dignified, studious, thoughtful, liberal man. He has aged somewhat since coming here, but no more than the four years of time naturally account for.

Every man must be born. It pleased heaven to send to a carpenter and millwright way up in the green mountains, and to that carpenter's wife a son who grew up to honor them. That was in 1836, and the dairy farm on which this infant son first saw the light, was near the town of Mt. Holly. Two and one half miles from the farm was the highest point touched by a main-traveled road in Vermont, so the dairy farm itself was very much the opposite of being in a valley.

In due time this infant son, having been named Ira Allen, became old enough to make himself useful, which he did to the full extent, and anybody who has known a boy on a farm, knows that he could not have been dispensed with. He also attended the district school and developed an appetite for knowledge which has grown upon him with years.

himself the proportion of taxes paid by property owners in the school district and divide his time among them, sometimes feeling not quite certain where he should go to spend a night and secure supper and breakfast. It was an unpleasant experience in some ways. "And yet," says Dr. Priest, "it had its bright sides and I glory in having known the experience."

At Goddard seminary the young Green Mountain boy furthered his education, teaching school to help pay the bill, and graduating in 1880. In the fall of that year he entered Tufts College, near Boston, and spent four years in an academic course. His parents were Universalists though his grandparents had been Methodists. Brought up in the former faith, and being bent on studying for the ministry, he spent three years in the theological department at Tufts. Before he graduated the young minister had received a call to Monson, Mass., and this he accepted. During his two years' pastorate there he was instrumental in securing the erection of a handsome stone church.

In 1889 came a call to Adams, Mass., and the beautiful Berkshire hills and in the shadow of old Graylock, the highest peak in Massachusetts. Three pleasant years were spent there. Rev. Priest did much aside from his duties as pastor, as he had done elsewhere, in addition to all reform movements in which he was a leader, he enlisted himself in the work of associated charities with vigor and success.

From Newtonville, Mass., came a call which was accepted in 1892, and his next move brought to Akron a splendid college president, teacher and citizen.

In addition to the several degrees he has received from colleges, Dr. Priest is Chaplain of the Eighth Regiment, O. N. G., the accompanying portrait showing him in his uniform. He was appointed by Gen. Chas. Dick, upon the reorganization of the regiment in 1899.

But the degrees—they are: Ph. B. received when he first graduated in 1884; B. D. received when he graduated from the theological department; A. M. received from Tufts college in 1888, and D. D. from the same institution in 1899.

Just after he graduated in June 1887, Dr. Priest married Eva N. Hall, of Lacon, Ill., who had gone east to attend Goddard seminary and afterward became its art teacher. They have one child—a daughter.

Dr. Priest is no mean artist himself. He has done some fine pieces in hammered brass work and since coming to Akron has taken an interest in clay moulding and casting. At the time of the college fire he had a cast of his little daughter—an excellent one—all but completed. He has had no time to touch the work since, though he delights in it.

MR. O. C. BARBER'S

RISE TO SUCCESS.

Mr. O. C. Barber, of New York, the President of the Diamond Match Co., changed his address from Chicago to New York, when the general offices of the great corporation were removed from the metropolis of the west to that of the east. Akron people still consider him one of their own citizens despite the fact that he has not lived here for many years. Mr. Barber's reasons for making the change from Akron to Chicago are too well known to need any explanation. He was driven away, the same as many other prominent Ohio men, by the obnoxious tax laws. Much of his time has been spent here and he always feels at home when in this city. It is in Akron that the friends of years reside. Among them he is known as a genial generous gentleman. His interest in the Akron City Hospital has brought him to the attention of the public as prominently as any one act of recent years. Today he is ready to give that institution \$100,000 provided the citizens are interested enough to raise an additional gift of \$15,000. A large part of the money has already been subscribed and it will be but a matter of a few weeks until his generous gift will be turned over to the Trustees of the Institution. Mr. Barber is now having plans prepared for a magnificent mansion at Barberton. It will surpass any residence in Ohio in point of architectural beauty and general elegance. The exterior will be of white terra cotta, the lines of the walls being relieved by numerous gabled windows and porches. It is reported that the mansion will cost not less than \$150,000. The structure will stand on an elevated point on a tract of land overlooking the busy city of which he was the founder.

Besides being President of the Diamond Match Co., he is at the head of the Stirling Boiler Co., and Vice President of the General Fire Ex-

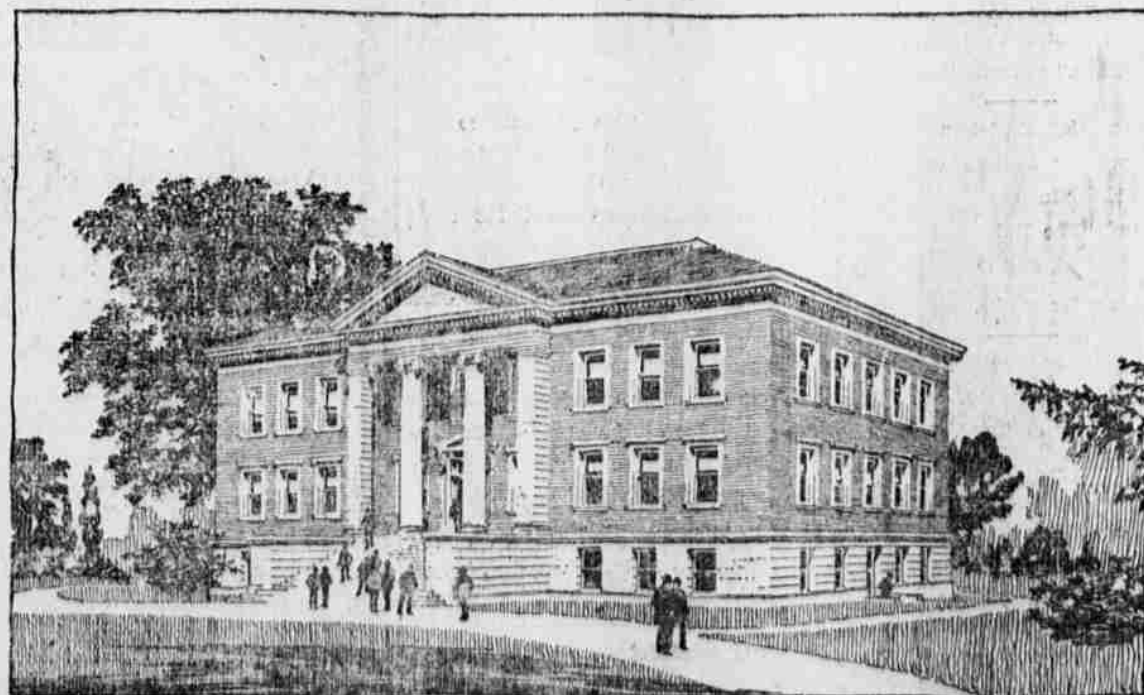
tinguisher Co., of Providence, R. I., a concern employing from 1,500 to 2,000 men. There are numerous other manufacturing industries with which he is identified in an official way. Mr. Barber is always a busy man. However he always finds time for a social visit with his friends. He is a golf enthusiast and loves a horse race. For several years it was a saying that no County fair was complete unless Mr. Barber was in the grand stand watching the flyers speed down the home stretch. He maintains a handsome home on E. Market st., and when in Akron spends a large part of his time there. This is briefly the Mr. Barber of today.

Splitting wood was the occupation of the President of the Diamond Match Co., fifty-four years ago. He was then a boy six years of age. His father, George Barber, was the owner of a small establishment where sulphur matches were made. It was here that Mr. O. C. Barber got his start in the business world. As soon as he was old enough to handle a machine he was set to work dividing the little blocks into match stems that were dipped into the mixture prepared by the workmen. For 10 years he knew no other occupation. When 16 years old his father started him on the road as a travelling salesman. In 1865 the Barber Match Co. was organized. He was made Secretary. Sixteen years later this was absorbed by the Diamond Match Co., of which he is now the President. It has a capital of \$15,000,000 with plants in the United States and a number of the foreign countries. Referring to the annual output of the match factories of the United States, Mr. Barber said that each match placed end to end would make a chain 4,000,000 miles in length, or 170 times around the earth.

This seems almost incredible, but when it is known that 115,200,000,000 matches are used annually the origi-

nal figures are dwarfed into insignificance. As another illustration of the enormity of the match output it is said that the matches, burned each year, would make a strip 15 inches in width around the globe. In the manufacture of these matches 40,000,000 square feet of lumber, one inch in thickness, 8,000 tons of strawboard, 3,500,000 pounds of paraffine and brimstone, and 4,000,000 pounds of chemical compounds are used annually. The plant of the Diamond Match Co., at Barberton, is the largest in the world. It is equipped with the most modern machinery and the cost of manufacture is reduced to a minimum. Its annual output is more than 100,000,000 matches. The company, of which Mr. Barber is the President, practically controls the match industry. It has millions invested in plants and forests and every year it is building up its interests. A plant is to be erected this year in the far northwest where the company owns immense tracts of pine land. It is not a monopoly however. Mr. Barber has always claimed that this is true. In many places smaller corporations are constantly in competition with the Diamond Co. It is not now and never has been the policy of Mr. Barber and his associates to crush out the independent concerns. It requires a master business mind to manage such an industry as this. Instead of showing the effects of this great task Mr. Barber is today a young man for his years. He shows no evidences of the great work which he has accomplished. In this connection it is appropriate to say something in reference to the Stirling Boiler Co. In 1894 and 1895 the stock of this corporation could have been purchased for a song. In a recent hearing in the Common Pleas court of this county Mr. Barber testified that he did not consider the stock worth anything six years ago. Today it is not on the

(Continued on page five—part one.)



THE NEW BUCHEL COLLEGE BUILDING.

MR. KOCH'S SUCCESS

AS A MERCHANT.

Akron has so many beautifully equipped and modern stores that to speak of them collectively would very inadequately present to the reader the view, which each establishment merits individually. All of Akron's stores are models in their respective lines, and while individual efforts have largely conduced to developing and maintaining the present high mercantile standard of this city, to no one person is all the credit due. Every person engaged in the mercantile business in Akron is entitled to a share of the credit for bringing about the splendid results.

Those who today view the splendid clothing and furnishing establishment of J. Koch & Co., in its spacious rooms in the Hamilton block, see in it the abundant fruitage of well directed, industrious effort, implanted in the business, started upon a modest scale more than 50 years ago. From the inception of the business, its growth has been steady, from time to time the firm being compelled to move into larger quarters to accommodate the increasing volume of business.

Jacob Koch, whose name is at the head of the firm, came to Akron from Cleveland, and entered the employ of Koch & Levi, March 2, 1854, as an errand boy. He remained with the firm, in the capacity of clerk, for 10 years, being admitted to partnership Feb. 1, 1864.

The store in which this establishment was first located, was a small wooden building, on East Market st., near the Empire hotel. Removing from there, the firm established itself at 123 South Howard st., remaining there until increase in business warranted the building of a store at 109 South Howard st. The building is now occupied by Wagoner & Marsh, shoe dealers. In this building the business of the firm was conducted for 30 years. Again, increasing business demanded larger quarters, and the Matthews block, on South Howard st., was remodeled from three rooms into one. Here the firm remained until its removal into the Hamilton block last fall.

The thousands who visit this store, know too well its convenience of location, elegance of appointment, and modern character of equipment, to need remark in this connection. Every article in stock embraces durability as well as beauty, and is sold for a reasonable price. Twenty clerks are employed to wait upon customers, and so well organized is the system of serving patrons that you get exactly what you want, without any annoyance of delays.

Mr. Koch became the head of the firm in 1875, and three years later, Mr. Louis Loeb became a partner in the business. Messrs. Koch and Loeb are the exclusive owners of the store.

The 50th anniversary of the store was celebrated October 14, 1898.

Jacob Koch is 60 years old. He is a son of Henry and Mary Koch, and was born near Mainz, on the Rhine, Germany. He is one of three brothers, having no sisters. With his parents he came to America 50 years ago, when he was but one year old.

Mr. Koch resides at 110 Adolph ave. He was married Feb. 8, 1893.

J. KOCH & COMPANY'S FORMER STORES.



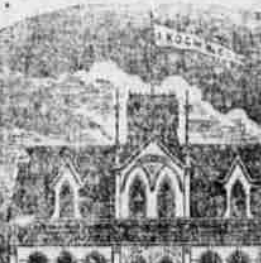
First Store, On East Market St.



Second Store, On South Howard St.



Third Store, On South Howard St.



Fourth Store, On South Howard St.

The Company is Now Located in the Magnificent New Hamilton Building.

to Miss Ella Dessauer, of Montrose, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Koch have one child—a daughter, Marian, aged 6. "My only diversion from business," said Mr. Koch to a Democrat reporter. "Is when I take my annual vacation of two weeks. I usually spend my vacation at my wife's home in Montrose, Pa. I am a patron of no fads in the way of exercise or amusement. My time is very pleasantly occupied in the pursuit of business."